

### **REMARKS**

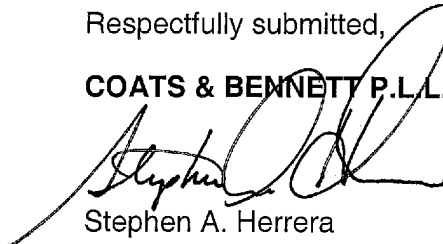
Applicant submits the following claim amendments prior to examination on the merits for consideration by the Examiner. The amendments cancel the existing claims 1-18, and add new claims 19-36. New claims 19-36 are substantially similar to (now cancelled) claims 1-18, but are written to ensure that the language of the claims comports with U.S. practice. Applicant has also amended the specification as noted above to correct minor typographical errors. Neither the claim amendments nor the specification amendments add new matter.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments prior to examination on the merits, and issue a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

September 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

**COATS & BENNETT P.L.L.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Herrera", is written over the printed name and firm name.

Stephen A. Herrera  
Registration No. 47,642  
Telephone: (919) 854-1844